

BOARD OF FINANCE



Steven Ezzes

Democratic Party

Biographical Statement

Steven Ezzes is a managing director of Newmarket Capital with 30 years of financial and corporate experience. He has served as Chairman of the BOF for eight years and held the similar position on Westport's BOF. Gov. Lamont appointed him to the board of the Connecticut Lottery Commission where he is a member of the executive committee for finance. He is a member of the Facilities Optimization Committee and former Trustee of the Westport/Weston YMCA.

In your opinion, what is the most significant issue facing Weston today?

In the 2017 *LWV Voter's Guide*, when I last ran for the BOF, the issue was the "State's looming fiscal crisis" and the impact on Weston with lower state aid. Weston has experienced many issues since 2017 including the pandemic. As Chairman of the BOF we successfully continued our excellent education and town services with modest mill rate increases, and in some years none. Little has changed since 2017: state aid remains low, our infrastructure requires increased capital investment, and we must address the needs of all members of our community: children, families, and seniors. The challenges continue!

Why are you running for this specific office and what do you bring to it?

One only has to view the *Weston Today* video (<https://westontoday.news/articles/210923-weston-by-air>) to understand representing Weston is a privilege. We have a number of hard choices going forward which must be made in collaboration with all our residents and members of town government. The unanimously elected Chairman for eight years, I have a record of fiscal responsibility, responsive leadership, and collaboration with other boards on a non-partisan basis. There is much to accomplish addressing facilities and fiscal implications while continuing the level of education and services our townspeople expect.

I hope to be able to continue to offer my expertise and enthusiasm.

What is the most important issue this board/commission faces and how would you potentially address it?

2017's issue was reduced state aid. Lower state aid continues to be an issue while we now need significant infrastructure improvements. There is good news: bond debt will be retired, and Weston's fiscal reserves are strong. We must be diligent in our budgeting to continue providing outstanding education and town services. Weston has experienced a 20% change in homes whose resident's opinions need to be heard as they have chosen to live in our community. There will be challenges and the BOF will refine our financial models taking into account the ever-changing environment for the state and our community.